

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 47 and 54 and add new claims 58-60.

1-39. (cancelled)

40. (previously presented) A knife for a wood chipping apparatus, comprising opposed front and back sides co-terminating in two spaced apart cutting edges lying in a plane, said front side including, in correspondence with said cutting edges, a respective two spaced apart deflector ridges, each deflector ridge terminating in a single linear edge parallel to the respective said cutting edge and maximally spaced from said plane, said back side including a semi-cylindrical interlocking feature.

41. (previously presented) The knife of claim 40, wherein said semi-cylindrical interlocking feature is a groove.

42. (previously presented) A clamp for clamping a knife in a wood chipping apparatus, the knife having a back side terminating in at least one cutting edge, the back side having a recess therein, the clamp comprising an inner surface for disposition proximate the back side of the knife and a projection depending therefrom for engaging the recess, said projection terminating in a semi-cylindrical tip portion of said projection.

43. (previously presented) The clamp of claim 42, wherein said tip portion is convex.

44. (previously presented) A wood chipping apparatus, comprising:

a knife having a back side terminating in at least one cutting edge, said back side having a first semi-cylindrical interlocking feature therein; and

an inner clamping member comprising a projection terminating in a second semi-cylindrical interlocking feature that is complementary in form to said first interlocking feature for engagement therewith, for clamping said knife in the wood chipping apparatus, said projection extending from said inner clamping member so as to permit rotation of said knife relative thereto during said engagement.

45. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein said first interlocking feature is a recess, and wherein said second interlocking feature is convexly curved.

46. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein said knife has a front side, wherein said front and back sides co-terminate in two spaced apart cutting edges lying in a plane, said front side including, in correspondence with said cutting edges, a respective two spaced apart and similar projecting interlocking features that project a maximum distance from said plane.

47. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein said projecting interlocking features include deflector ridges, ~~each deflector ridge terminating in a single linear edge, parallel to the respective said cutting edge, and maximally spaced projecting from said plane.~~

48. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, further comprising an outer clamping member adapted to interlockingly receive at least one of said deflector ridges during said engagement.

49. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 47, wherein said first interlocking feature is a recess, and wherein said second interlocking feature is convex.

50. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein said knife has a front side, said front and back sides co-terminating in said cutting edge, said front side including a projecting interlocking feature, the apparatus further comprising an outer clamping member adapted to interlockingly receive said projecting interlocking feature.

51. (previously presented) A wood chipping apparatus, comprising:

a knife having a back side terminating in at least one cutting edge, said back side having a first semi-cylindrical interlocking feature therein; and

a clamp for clamping said knife by applying a clamping force thereto, said clamp comprising a projection terminating in a second semi-cylindrical interlocking feature that is complementary in form to said first interlocking feature for engagement therewith, substantially the entirety of said clamping force being transmitted through said engagement.

52. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said first interlocking feature is a recess, and wherein said second interlocking feature is convexly curved.

53. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said knife has a front side, wherein said front and back sides co-terminate in two spaced apart cutting edges lying in a plane, said front side including, in correspondence with said cutting edges, a respective two spaced apart and similar projecting interlocking features that project a maximum distance from said plane.

54. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 53, wherein said projecting interlocking features include deflector ridges, ~~each deflector ridge terminating in a single~~

~~linear edge, parallel to the respective said cutting edge, and maximally spaced projecting from said plane.~~

55. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 54, further comprising an outer clamping member adapted to interlockingly receive at least one of said deflector ridges during said engagement.

56. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein said first interlocking feature is a recess, and wherein said second interlocking feature is convex.

57. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 51, wherein said knife has a front side, said front and back sides co-terminating in said cutting edge, said front side including a projecting interlocking feature, the apparatus further comprising an outer clamping member adapted to interlockingly receive said projecting interlocking feature.

58. (new) A knife for a wood chipping apparatus, comprising opposed front and back sides co-terminating in two spaced apart cutting edges lying in a plane, said front side including, corresponding with said cutting edges, two spaced apart deflector ridges projecting away from said front side a maximum distance from said plane, each of said deflector ridges defining an associated knife-edge-joining portion associated with a given one of said deflector ridges providing a smoothly curving transition from a point on said one of said deflector ridges that is disposed from said plane said maximum distance to a corresponding point on the corresponding cutting edge, said back side including a semi-cylindrical interlocking feature.

59. (new) The knife of claim 58, wherein each said deflector ridge terminates in a single linear edge, parallel to the respective said cutting edge, and maximally spaced from said plane.

60. (new) The knife of claim 59, wherein said semi-cylindrical interlocking feature is a groove.